

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO CENTRAL DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff

v.

MARCUS DELON WESSON,

Defendant.

Defendant.

The Court has received numerous requests by news media to allow camera and audio coverage of court proceedings in this matter. Coverage of some early motion hearings has been allowed. The Court published on January 6, 2005 draft orders regarding media access and courtroom decorum and asked for comment by the parties and media representatives. In addition, the Court's media liaison met with media representatives regarding their concerns, including possible media camera and audio coverage and the Court's draft orders.

A hearing was held on January 11, 2005 regarding these concerns. Thereafter the court met with court staff, court administration, and Deputy Services regarding the orders and concerns of the media and concerns of the above staff regarding

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their needs and implementation. The court has considered the concerns and requests submitted.

The court has concluded that photo and electronic media coverage of the case must be limited. Extensive media has already exposed the prospective jury pool to information in this matter. Additional electronic coverage has the potential of prejudicing the rights of the parties to a fair trial and likely necessitating additional hearings to investigate the nature of the exposure and impact on the jurors.

Whereas, it is in the Court's operational and security interest and responsibility to minimize interference with neighboring courtrooms, to minimize disruption of court proceedings, to provide unimpeded access to courtrooms for persons conducting regular court business, to protect the privacy rights of jurors and prospective jurors, to protect the rights of the parties to this case to a fair trial, and to enable the Fresno County Sheriff, who has been designated as the Fresno Superior Court Security Officer, to enforce the provisions of this order, and having considered other factors pursuant to Rule 980(e)(3).

THEREFORE, This Order is for the duration of this case and is made pursuant Rule 980, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. There shall be no cameras, tape recorders, video recorders, camcorders, laptop or other computers permitted in the courtroom. Cellular phones, personal digital assistants, satellite phones or any other manual or electronic device capable of recording video, audio or still images, or any device capable

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of recording video, audio or still images, or any device capable of transmitting any visual or audio representation or actual image or sound shall not be permitted in the courtroom. Cellular phones or personal digital assistants that do not have the capabilities above will be permitted in the courtroom so long as they are turned off or on silent mode.

- 2. There shall be no photographing, recording, or broadcasting of prospective jurors or selected jurors at any time or at any location during the trial. In the courtroom, there shall be no photographing, recording, or broadcasting of spectators, conferences between an attorney and client, witness, or aide, or a conference between attorneys, or attorneys and the court (sidebars), or proceedings closed to the public.
- 3. Subject to a pooling arrangement, one television camera and one still camera may be located in the public hallway on the fifth floor of the Courthouse as directed by the Court and Sheriff staff. The camera crews shall not impede, interfere, or in any way obstruct the flow of traffic in the corridor, access to the courtrooms or offices, or in any way interfere with the security of the courthouse. No other cameras shall be permitted on the fifth floor except as authorized by the court. Media requests to photograph, record, or broadcast in other courtrooms may be directed to the judges of those departments.
- 4. All members of the media shall display official court or media credentials at all times while in the courtroom.

5. Exceptions or modifications to this order may be made at any time. DATED this day of January 2005. L. PUTNAM R. Judge of the Superior Court

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